

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-28 were originally filed on September 26, 2003, and were rejected in an Office action mailed February 24, 2005. A Response filed May 19, 2005 to the Office action of February 24, 2005 added new claims 29 and 30. Claims 1-30 were rejected in a final Office action mailed August 5, 2005. Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims. Claims 2-14, 29, and 30 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 16-28 depend from independent claim 15.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A system supporting access, monitoring, and control of appliances, the system comprising:

a set top box at a first location;

at least one home appliance at the first location; and

a local area network operationally coupling the set top box to the at least one home appliance, via a wired or wireless connection, to allow access, monitoring, and control of the at least one home appliance, without requiring the use of a script and wherein the set top box passes commands sent from a remote second location to the at least one home appliance.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a personal computer at ~~[[a]]~~the remote second location;

a server at a remote third location; and

a wide area network operationally coupling the set top box, the personal computer, and the server via wired and/or wireless connections.

Claim 3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the wide area network comprises:

at least one broadband access headend; and

an Internet infrastructure operationally coupling to the at least one broadband access headend.

Claim 4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the at least one broadband access headend comprises a cable headend.

Claim 5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the at least one broadband access headend comprises a satellite headend.

Claim 6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the server is operated by a third party service provider.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the set top box comprises:

a broadband communication interface; and

software supporting communication between at least one media peripheral and the broadband communication interface.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of the following: a television, a personal computer, and a media player.

Claim 9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one display device.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one home appliance comprises at least one of the following: a dish washer, a refrigerator, a microwave oven, a clothes washer, and a clothes dryer.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one home appliance comprises at least one of the following: a heating system, an air conditioning system, and a hot water heater.

Claim 12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one home appliance comprises any device that is capable of being networked to the local area network.

Claim 13. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a remote control at the first location communicatively coupled to control the set top box.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the local area network comprises at least one of the following: a home cable infrastructure, an Ethernet infrastructure, an 802.11b wireless infrastructure, and a home PNA (phoneline networking alliance) infrastructure.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access, monitoring, and control of appliances via a communication network, the method comprising:

identifying by a first system, at a first location, at least one home appliance communicatively coupled to a second system, the second system at a remote second location;

establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one home appliance via the communication network;

verifying authorization for control of the at least one home appliance by the first system;

communicating, from the first system, at least one command to the at least one home appliance via the communication network, if the verifying is successful;

refraining from communicating at least one command to the at least one home appliance via the communication network, if the verifying is not successful;

receiving, at the first system, at least one response from the at least one home appliance, if a command was communicated; and

wherein ~~control of~~ commands are sent from the first location to the at least one home appliance at the second location, via a wide area communication network ~~is accomplished without requiring the use of a script.~~

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the following: the first system and the second system comprises a set top box.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the following: the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the following: the first system and the second system comprises a server.

Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the server is operated by a third party service provider.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one home appliance comprises at least one of the following: a dish washer, a refrigerator, a microwave oven, a clothes washer, and a clothes dryer.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one home appliance comprises at least one of the following: a heating system, an air conditioning system, and a hot water heater.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one home appliance comprises any device that is capable of being networked to at least one of the following: the first system and the second system.

Claim 23. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the communication link is via at least one wired connection.

Claim 24. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the communication link is via at least one wireless connection.

Claim 25. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one portion of the communication link is via a cable infrastructure.

Claim 26. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the communication link is via a plurality of wired and/or wireless connections.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one command comprises at least one of the following: an access command, a power on command, a power off command, a parameter adjustment command, a mode change command, a parameter monitor command, and a programming command.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one response comprises at least one of the following:

- the at least one appliance powering on;
- the at least one appliance powering off;
- the at least one appliance changing a mode of operation;
- the at least one appliance sending a status to the first system;
- the at least one appliance adjusting an operational parameter; and
- the at least one appliance changing at least one programmed operational step.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a second set top box located at ~~[[a]]~~the second location remote from the first location; and

wherein the second set top box is operatively coupled via a wide area network to the set top box at the first location to allow access, monitoring, and control of the at least one home appliance using the second set top box.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set top box at the first location communicates via a wide area network in a peer to peer manner.